

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the present application. The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) and 1.84(o). Claims 3, 4, 9, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 12-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuste et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,662,039, in view of Tsien, U.S. Patent No. 5,296,703. Claims 1-2, 5-8 and 10 were allowed. Claims 3, 4, 9 and 11 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 3, 4 and 7-11 have been amended. Claims 12-17 have been canceled. The drawings have been amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

A supplemental information disclosure statement including Form PTO-1449 is submitted herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

Objections to the drawings

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) and 1.84(o) because the blocks of Fig. 1 are required to be labeled with descriptive legends. Fig. 1 has now been amended to include descriptive legends for the blocks, as found in the specification at page 5, lines 10, through page 6, line 9. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Withdrawal of the objections to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) and 1.84(o) is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 3, 4, 9, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner has indicated that claims 3, 4, 9 and 11 each recite a broad recitation and also a narrow "particular" limitation, and that there is no antecedent basis for the "the stimulation-specific stains" recitation in claim 12. Claims 3, 4, 9 and 11 have now been amended to remove the narrow "particular" limitation and new claims 18-21 have been

added respectively depending from claims 3, 4, 9 and 11 and reciting the narrower limitations removed from claims 3, 4, 9 and 11. Claims 7, 8 and 10 have been amended for agreement with the “regions within the portion of the specimen” recitation of claim 1. Claim 12 has now been canceled. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 3, 4, 9, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 12-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuste et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,662,039, in view of Tsien, U.S. Patent No. 5,296,703. Claims 12-17 have now been canceled.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Yuste et al. in view of Tsien, is respectfully requested.

Allowable subject matter

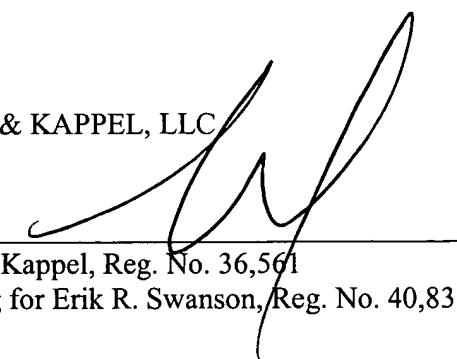
Claims 1-2, 5-8 and 10 were allowed. Claims 3, 4, 9 and 11 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this indication of allowability and has now amended claims 3, 4, 9 and 11 to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig 1. This sheet replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1.

Attachment: One Replacement Sheet.